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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS volume contains a selection from the proceedings of the MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY during the calendar year 1878. Ten meetings were held, the stated ones for the months of July and August having been omitted by vote of the Society.

The volume contains also Memoirs of four deceased members: that of the Hon. B. R. Curtis, by the Rev. Dr. Robbins; of George Bemis, Esq., by Judge Hoar; of the Hon. James Savage, by the Hon. George S. Hillard, almost his last literary labor; and that of the Hon. John Lothrop Motley, by Dr. Holmes. By the kindness of Messrs. Houghton, Osgood, & Co., who have given the portraits, we are able to place Mr. Motley's likeness as an appropriate frontispiece to a volume published by an historical society. The excellent portrait of Judge Curtis, inserted at page 16, is the generous gift of his son, B. R. Curtis, Esq.

The other illustrations are: a heliotype *fac-simile* of the first page of the Records of the President and Council of New Hampshire, placed at page 261; *fac-similes* of the signatures of Columbus and Vespuccius, given at page 323; and a heliotype of the Agreement of the Pequot Indians, at page 402.

The first part of this volume was prepared for the press by Mr. DEANE, who as Recording Secretary *pro tempore*, after the death of Mr. Quincy, became again Chairman of the Committee for publishing the Proceedings. The present committee, two of whose members had been associated with him in the discharge of this duty during nearly the whole period of his service, are unwilling that this volume should appear without recognition on their part of his invaluable services to the Society. Nine volumes, issued under his supervision within the last fourteen years, attest his unwearied industry, his scrupulous accuracy, and the soundness of his judgment on historical questions. The Record prepared by him ends with the annual meeting of 1878.

GEORGE DEXTER,
SAMUEL A. GREEN, } *Committee.*
CHARLES C. SMITH,

BOSTON, March 1, 1879.